

VZCZCXYZ0003
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLC #0217 0951636
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 051636Z APR 06
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8950
INFO RUEHKI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 1253
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0289
RUEHLU/AMEMBASSY LUANDA 0899
RUEHNJ/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA 0374
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0781
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE 0618
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUFGNOA/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE
RHMFISS/COMUSNAVEUR NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 000217

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS
PARIS PASS DEFENSE ATTACHE
KINSHASA PASS BRAZZAVILLE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/05/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [GB](#)
SUBJECT: GABONESE DEFENSE MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL
REPLACED

REF: LIBREVILLE 0196

Classified By: POLITICAL OFFICER GLENN FEDZER FOR REASON 1.4 (B)

¶1. (U) Minister of Defense Ali Bongo elevated General Robert Mangollo M'voulou to the post of Secretary General at the Ministry of National Defense April 4, replacing General of the Army Jean-Remy Ondo, who was appointed Secretary General for National Defense at the Presidency. The Ministry of Defense Secretary General's responsibilities closely parallel those of Chief of Staff in other military structures and make him the senior military officer within the Ministry of Defense. Mangollo, a four star general, is now in a higher position than five star General of the Army Jean Ntori Longho; Mangollo may soon be awarded a fifth star.

¶2. (C) Comment: Like the replacement of the commander of the Republican Guard last month (reftel), General Ondo's move to the Presidency may be designed to ease him gracefully into retirement. Unlike last month's change, Mangollo M'voulou's installation, and Ali Bongo's role in it, were given good coverage by the government controlled press. As noted in reftel, Ali Bongo appears to be consolidating his hold over the military, and more changes in other senior positions might occur in the coming months.
WALKLEY